

I rely on the Internet as a public platform for free speech, equal opportunity, economic growth and innovation. Without vital Net Neutrality protections, companies like Verizon and Comcast, which have a commercial incentive to limit the free-flowing Web, can decide whether I will have a voice online. These companies should not have the power to determine my fate on the Internet.

Our country needs an internet open to all, not governed by corporations. Small businesses and creative voices are thriving on the internet now. People are using the internet to express their personal and political views as never before. The internet serves as a safety valve and as a stimulating force for solutions to common problems. I have learned how to research medical questions, am learning new languages, researching political candidates, keeping in touch with family and friends that otherwise I would have lost contact with. I have gained new practical skills in wide variety of areas and feel connected to my culture in ways I never thought possible. The internet has opened and keeps opening new horizons for us all. There is no alternative media that can provide what a wide-open internet can provide.

It has become an exciting part of our culture that keeps all ages involved in with each other, keeps all areas of the country moving forward together, ending a sense of personal and regional isolation. It even connects cultures around the world. It enables us to see one another in new and more positive ways. The internet has created an intellectual and social renaissance of a magnitude heretofore unimaginable and it keeps on changing, evolving and providing business, social, and personal opportunities for growth. To allow the tiered-structure and narrow control by corporations or corporate-designated boards or panels is to stifle this growth, to inhibit innovation.

We talk all the time about the merits of a free-market approach, but this would undermine that type of growth. We need innovators. We need an educated, more sophisticated populace. We need to allow the internet to continue to develop on its own, regulating only criminal excess. Most people use the internet every day for constructive purposes. It is what ensures we tap into our potential and share it with one another.

When a family member travels, we can keep in touch in real time. When crises develop anywhere in the world, we can watch, learn and help. Our lives are richer for having access to a wealth of information and innovative systems. We cannot allow only a few corporate boards to determine what is available for the entire country.

As libraries are forced to curtail operations, as people have less disposable income, the internet becomes more valuable to ensure we have a curious, educated society. I am now a senior and have seen the development of the net as an educational and social medium. It has become an integral and necessary part of our society and has served to spread our culture around the world - mostly for the better.

As a senior, I am using the internet to enhance the quality of life for myself and my family. My husband and I hope to develop a small business using the net as our primary marketing tool because we are at the age where few businesses will hire us even though we have much to offer. Being able to use a neutral net will enable us to explore this potential and remain productive far beyond the normal limits of our ages.

Do not, please do not allow corporate interests to dominate. Corporations do not have the welfare of our country as their driving force. They driven by their own profit-motive. The greater good must be the driving force, not the almighty dollar for a few. Let the net enable and empower all of us, not just a few.

The FCC can't cut private deals that would hand control over the Internet to a few massive phone and cable companies. Any compromise that allows Internet providers to build toll lanes online is not real Net Neutrality.

The agency must stand with the public and protect consumer access to the most important communications medium of our time. The FCC must regain its resolve to protect Net Neutrality on wired and wireless networks. Please reclassify broadband as a "telecommunications service" and keep the Internet open and free of corporate gatekeepers.

As a part of our federal government, the FCC has a duty to protect the public from forces that would narrow our options, would limit our ability to learn, grow, and innovate.

The internet has opened markets, opened minds, and opened possibilities for our people. The FCC must ensure that this gateway for communication of all types is left as it is to develop and prosper without being tied to narrow self-interested corporate interests. If we lose it, we lose the ability to compete, to lead, and to keep pace with the rest of the world.

The internet is at the heart of a democratic view of the world. It empowers all of us to develop ourselves and our country, to lift ourselves up and broaden our world views and appreciate of the freedoms we have.

Please protect Net Neutrality. It is essential for the greater good, for our citizens and for our country.